

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Inovar

Utah Manufacturing Extension Partnership

Inovar Reaches New Level Of Quality With Iso 9001:2000

Client Profile:

Inovar Inc. is a provider of quality electronic manufacturing services to the full spectrum of OEMs (original equipment manufacturers). As a specialist in mid-volume THA (Through Hole Assembly) and SMT (Surface Mount Technology) circuit board assembly, Inovar also provides a full range of services. Its areas of value-added service include: materials procurement, printed circuit assembly, test, and system build. Located in Logan, Utah, the company employs less than 100 people.

Situation:

Inovar has become part of the booming, fast-paced electronics manufacturing industry, in which precision is critical. Many electronics customers require their suppliers to be ISO certified, to be able to guarantee quality processes to their own customers. Becoming ISO certified became increasingly important for Inovar as it worked to keep pace with today's electronic industry. Inovar decided to employ the Manufacturing Extension Partnership of Utah (MEP Utah), a NIST MEP network affiliate, to assist with ISO certification.

Solution:

MEP Utah helped Inovar obtain ISO 9001: 2000 certification to improve the quality of products generated and allow the company to become more competitive in the contract electronic manufacturing industry. MEP Utah met with Inovar and started the certification process for ISO 9001:2000. This is a large undertaking for any company, as many hours are spent developing procedures and policies that are unique to their processes. MEP Utah helped Inovar compile the necessary documents and trained all management personnel on the "ins and outs" of ISO 9000.

As a result, Inovar achieved ISO 9001:2000 certification in December of 2001. This was especially impressive because Inovar become one of the first companies in the state of Utah to achieve this status. Now its customers are assured of the exacting standards that Inovar upholds.

Results:

Achieved ISO 9001:2000 certification in a timely three-month period.
Increased customer confidence in the company's quality products.
Gained the ability to measure and analyze quality data plant-wide.

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Became more organized by standardizing processes.

Improved document and record control.

Increased ability to attract new business.

Set a standard for continuous improvement.

Increased sales.

Increased staffing by 50 percent since certification.

Testimonial:

"We are excited to be ISO 9001:2000 certified. This certification has already opened up new business opportunities, and has established the foundation for continual improvement."

Blake Kirby, President/CEO